

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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*****For Immediate Release*****

Date: March 12, 2009
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WSP to Increase Patrols During March 13-17

Troopers from all over Snohomish, King, Kitsap, and Pierce Counties will be out in strength searching for St. Patrick's Day revelers who drive dangerously. From Friday, March 13 through Tuesday March 17, troopers will patrol the roadways and remove drivers who speed, drive after drinking or taking drugs, or break other traffic laws.

Too many people become needless victims because of collisions caused by impaired drivers. During this same time last year, troopers in the four counties stopped 1,996 violators, removed 189 impaired drivers from the road and wrote more than 955 tickets for violations such as speed, following too close and aggressive driving.

"Emphasis patrols during non traditional holidays are important because they lead to a reduction in the number of alcohol-related fatalities and injuries," said Captain James Lever.

This weekend is a time to celebrate Irish tradition, ethnic pride, and good times with friends and family. Unfortunately, some people make the deadly mistake of getting behind the wheel after consuming alcohol. "I am confident this coordinated emphasis will save lives this holiday weekend," Lever said.

Please call the Public Information Officer (PIO) responsible for the listed county for further information if needed:

Snohomish County Trooper Keith Leary @ 425-508-0793 Snohomish County will have extra troopers working, along with regularly scheduled troopers for this holiday weekend. The WSP FLIR aircraft will also be used for the emphasis.

King County: Trooper Dan McDonald @ 425-401-7788 or 425-766-0812, King County will have 46 extra Troopers and will be working with the Mobile Impaired Driving Unit.

Kitsap County: Trooper Krista Hedstrom @ 360-405-6613 or 360-265-1332 Kitsap County will have extra troopers working, along with regularly scheduled troopers for this holiday weekend.

Pierce County: Trooper Brandy Kessler @ 360-596-4010 Contact Trooper Kessler for further details.

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